



DECEMBER 2025 382

Brooklyn  
Community  
Centre

# BROOKLYN TATTLER

*what's happening in your community*



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*This month's cover photo is of St Bernard's School principal Lisa Small with pupils and staff. St Bernard's School closes for the last time on 17 December. Read more on page 9.*

*Photo credit: Euan Harris*

### February 2025 copy due no later than 5pm Tuesday 27 January

Email your contribution to [tattler@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz](mailto:tattler@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz)

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# from the COMMUNITY CENTRE

**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
**PHONE 384 6799**

Kia ora, Hello and welcome to the December edition of the Brooklyn Tattler. It's hard to believe that another year has almost come and gone. We had a very busy month in November with the Brooklyn Twilight Festival being a definite highlight. The weather was fantastic and as a result over 4000 people turned out to make this year's Festival better than ever. Read more about the Festival and view some of our photos on pages 6 and 7.

As it's now December this is our final Tattler for the year. Like many of you we will take a break over the New Year and return after Wellington Anniversary Day refreshed to start 2026.

### Christmas Yoga

If you're beginning to feel a bit stressed in the lead up to Christmas then come and try our Saturday morning gentle yoga, breath and relaxation classes on the 6th, 13th and 20 of December in the main hall from 10:30am to 11:45am with Maria Bergvall. Maria has been teaching yoga and breathwork for 14 years and has a strong focus on making her classes accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Payment by koha. BYO yoga mat. Contact Maria for more information on 020 477 5190.

### January School Holiday Activities

The last day of Before and After School Care for 2025 is on Wednesday 17 December when Brooklyn School finishes for term 4. Adam, Joolz and the Childcare Programme staff will be back from mid-January with a fun packed Holiday Programme starting on Tuesday 20 January (the day after Wellington Anniversary Day) and running to Friday 30 January. Booking forms are available now on our website and at the Community Centre.

### Thank You- Ngā mihi maioha

It's that time of year to again reflect and give thanks to everyone who helps keep the Brooklyn Community Centre the much-loved community asset it has been for over 78 years – we couldn't do it without you. First, we would once again like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Tattler this year to help enable us to continue to bring you the latest community news. Special thanks go to our advertisers and Pivotal Print; Their support helps us to continue to offer free content to local groups and clubs. We welcome feedback and submissions anytime, so if you see or hear of something in the greater Brooklyn area that you think may be of interest, please let us know. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Wellington City Council for our operational and ANZAC Day funding grants. Thank you to DIA Lotteries, and the BRC Charitable Trust for their grants this year. Thank you to Sue Devereux and the Meals on Wheels volunteers who deliver meals which are dropped off here at the Centre. A huge thank you to Peter Cox who sorts out the plastic and metal lid recycling for us and takes it to the Sustainability Trust. Thank you to Carl Savage and the Greater Brooklyn Residents Association for organising the battery and aluminium can recycling. Thank you to all the people who have volunteered their time on a Friday afternoon to come and talk to our Friday Circle Seniors group, thank you to Dorothy Long for once again washing our towels and tablecloths. Last but not least, thank you to you, our community; you are the reason we are here. Thank you for supporting us by reading the Tattler, coming to our markets, and making the Brooklyn Community Centre the welcoming, inclusive, hub of activity it is. We are proud to be here working with you and supporting you with childcare programmes; markets; recycling and sustainability initiatives; seniors' social groups;

helping to bring the Twilight Festival to Brooklyn; and by providing a fully accessible, welcoming, venue for local groups, one-off hires, and anyone who just wants to hang out, right here in the heart of Brooklyn.

On behalf of the Brooklyn Community Association (BCA) staff: Adam Hendry (Childcare Programme Manager), Julia (Joolz) Smith (Senior Childcare Supervisor) Euan Harris (Community Centre Coordinator), Jo Henley (Accounts), Phillip Bolton (Finance), Sam Darlington (Tattler Design Supremo) and the BCA voluntary committee: Sonya Bissmire (President), Joeline Skelton (Treasurer), Perry Aspros, Richard Lucy, Chris Rabey, Kirstin Friend and Cherie Connor we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing start to 2026.

<b>Main Office Closes</b>	19 December 2025
<b>Main Office Reopens</b>	20 January 2026
<b>Childcare Office Closes</b>	17 December 2025
<b>Childcare Office Reopens</b>	20 January 2026

## CONTACT US

### Venue Hire and General Enquiries:

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**Market:**  
[market@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz](mailto:market@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz)

**Main Office:** 04 384 6799

**Childcare Office:** 04 385 0089





# from the LIBRARY

Meri Kirihimete Moe-rā / Merry Christmas Brooklyn

We at the Moe-rā Brooklyn Library wish you all a joyful, happy Christmas and New Year.

'Tis also the season for our Summer Reading Adventure. Open to all, young and not so young, head to [wcl.beanstack.org](http://wcl.beanstack.org) to create an account. Log your reads, review them by either writing, drawing or filming and earn digital badges to mark your progress. Some badges come with prizes to collect from your local library. And there is a Beanstack Tracker app you can download to help with logging your reads. The Summer Reading Adventure runs from 1st December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

We hope you've had some great reads from our collection this year. We've enjoyed your visits



and chats and hope you all have a restful silly season.

Moe-ra Brooklyn Library will be closing at 5.30pm on Tuesday 23 December and reopening Monday 5 January at 10am.

Tē Awe, Tē Awa a Taia Kilbirnie, Tē Mahanga Karori and Waitohi Johnsonville Libraries will remain open with reduced hours, other than the statutory holidays, during this time.

**Ka kite anō**

The Moe-rā Brooklyn Library team



**1 December – 31 January**

**read books | complete quests | win prizes**

With themed adventures for kids (5-13), teens (13-18), and adults (16+). Once you get started, you choose how to play!



Nau mai rā tātou katoa | Everybody is welcome.

Wellington City Libraries

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council

## PUREAIR HEAT PUMP CLEANING

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or email [office@pureairnz.co.nz](mailto:office@pureairnz.co.nz)

BROOKLYN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

[brooklynresidentswellington@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynresidentswellington@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/brooklynresidentswellington](http://www.facebook.com/brooklynresidentswellington)



Monthly update on issues and projects involving our community

## NEXT MEETING – We invite you to our first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday 18 February 2025 at 7pm at the

Brooklyn Community Centre, 18 Harrison Street - Come and have your say and look at contributing

### Brooklyn Twilight Festival

We extend our congratulations to the organisers of another excellent Brooklyn Twilight Festival. Well done Two Todman (Anglican Church), Brooklyn Community Association and Vogelmorn Community Group for their organising efforts. An estimated number of over 4000 people came to enjoy the market stalls, entertainment, food and refreshments. The event wrapped up at 9pm just before the rain started. Here we suspect the hand of Rev. Scottie Reeve liaising with the Guy in the Sky to guarantee fine weather during the Festival and for the rain to hold off until later. Congratulations to everyone.

### Residents Association Constitution

With changes to the Incorporated Societies Act, GBRAI have been obliged to alter their Constitution to stay on the correct side of the Act and MBIE. GBRAI extend sincere thanks to the hard work of Pravin and the Constitution working group, who have rewritten large parts of the Constitution., And a special thanks to those who came to the Special General Meeting (held on 19 November) to review, ratify and pass the changes. We really appreciate your efforts.

### T and T Landfill and vehicle reversing beepers

Residents of Kowhai Park and Panorama Heights will be familiar with the noise from the landfill vehicles working at the T and T landfill site. As the landfill has expanded – up the valley and in height – the noise has become much more noticeable. WCC have monitored the noise, found them in breach of their consent and issued a compliance notice. They are seeking the tonal alarms/beepers being removed and replaced with other alternative technology and equipment. We will watch this and see how it develops.

### Battery recycling

GBRAI initiated our own local Brooklyn battery collection project, in conjunction with the Brooklyn Community Association. Since October 2022 to late November 2025, GBRAI have collected & recycled: 479 kg of all various battery types The most numerous are: 1) 247 kg of AA batteries; 2) 73 kg of AAA batteries; 3) 30 kg of C batteries; 4) 37 kg of D batteries and remainder made up of 6V, 9V, 12V, 18V, button batteries and computer batteries.

### Christmas and the New Year

Our final meeting of 2025 was held on 19 November – straight after the Special General Meeting for our Constitution. So, formally, we are finished for this year. That said on behalf of the GBRAI Executive, we wish the wider community an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year. We hope to see you either in person or at one of our meetings. All the very best wishes.

Email us your ideas, queries or concerns, please contact us at:  
[brooklynresidentswellington@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynresidentswellington@gmail.com) - [www.facebook.com/brooklynresidentswellington](http://www.facebook.com/brooklynresidentswellington)





# BROOKLYN

## twilight festival

The sun was out on Saturday 15 November for The Brooklyn Twilight festival. This was the third consecutive year the festival was held in its new shape after a 13-year hiatus. Harrison Street was humming from right from the 2pm kick-off time.

There was plenty to keep people entertained with both community and market stalls. Food and beverage vendors were serving delicious and refreshing treats all day. The bouncy castles provided



With three stages' worth of entrainment, there was never a dull moment. In terms of music, there was something for everyone. From the choral singing stage of Brooklyn's own community choir. To the joyous tunes of Fun and Funner, a returning act from previous years. The evening culminated with the Legendary Afro-beats band Star Time. There was truly something for everyone, young or young at heart!



a much-needed breather for parents. Thankfully, to match the abundance of entertainment, over 4000 people showed up to enjoy it all!

A new addition to the Festival this year was the Brooklyn Twilight Trail, which invited participants to travel the neighbourhood, collecting stamps from local businesses. With a prize worth over 400 dollars, this, of course, was a great success. The trail spread smiling faces and families throughout the village on the day.



The annual Twilight Festival has quickly become a highly anticipated event in our local community. It's a time for our neighbourhood to gather together. The Festival serves as an important reminder of the amazing community we live in. It's an opportunity to see the neighbours we know in a different context. The kid

who scoots past your house on the way to school, instead, ripping into a Hungry Monkey potato twirler. Or the older couple who live up the road, having a dance to a groovy young band.

Without the many volunteers and community buy-in, this event would not be possible. We are also incredibly grateful to the key sponsors of the event: Two Todman, Brooklyn Community Centre, VBC, The BRC Charitable Trust, The Vogelhorn Foundation, and Wellington City Council. So as we rest and reflect on the 2025 festival, we also look forward to doing it all again and gathering again in 2026! If that feels like too long to wait, make sure to keep up to date with the events and programmes that Two Todman, Brooklyn Community Centre and Vogelhorn Community Group run all year-round.

Maggie Paine  
Two Todman Community Worker





## GORGEOUS GORGINA

Gorgina might give you the big, shy eyes when she first meets you, but she'll be ready to snuggle in for pats at the first sign of encouragement.

The gentle eight-year-old came to the CPW shelter because she had become too frightened of the family's dog. After living with it for two years, she was spending most days just hiding away upstairs.

Gorgina is affectionate, gentle and loves human company. She enjoys sleeping close to you or curling up on your lap and would very much like to be the only pet in a home where people can give her lots of attention and company.

She likes access to both indoors and outdoors and used to catch birds and skinks when she was younger. She

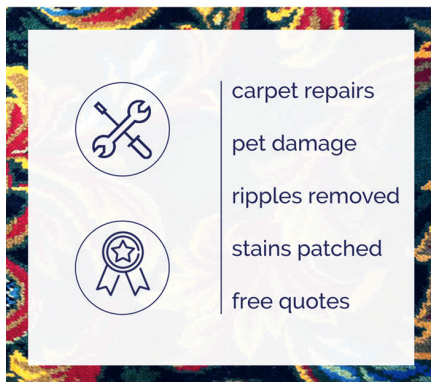


prefers high-quality food and needs to be on a sensitive tummy diet.

She's good with children but would need to be the only pet in a quiet home where she can shine.

If you have a quiet home you'd love to share with Gorgina, contact us: [catsprotectionwellington.org.nz](http://catsprotectionwellington.org.nz). We also have clips, pix and stories on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

## CARPETECH CARPET MAINTENANCE



### BROOKLYN

(04) 385 4085 [carpetech@me.com](mailto:carpetech@me.com)  
021 434 232 [www.carpetech.co.nz](http://www.carpetech.co.nz)

### Recycling at the Community Centre

- » Food and beverage cartons
- » Plastic lids
- » Metal tops/lids
- » Household batteries
- » Aluminium cans
- » Small Metal Items
- » No E-Waste or Soft Plastics

Brooklyn  
Community  
Centre

18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn,  
Wellington 6021, New Zealand  
[brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz](http://brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz)

## ST BERNARD'S SCHOOL CLOSURE

St Bernard's School closes for the last time on Wednesday 17 December when term 4 comes to an end for 2025. Many longtime Brooklyn residents have fond memories of attending St Bernard's at 40 Taft Street during their primary school years. People were able to share their stories at an open mic session during the official closing Mass and lunch in the school hall on Saturday 15 November. This occasion was also used to celebrate St Bernard's 90th



ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL  
*he ara kei te ao*

Jubilee. There was an opportunity to walk through the school and view photos and memorabilia in the nearby hall. The closure of the school marks the end of a Catholic presence in Taft Street, with the neighbouring St Bernard's Church having closed during April 2021.



*The Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin conducts the St Bernard's School closing mass*







Welcome to December from St John Brooklyn.

St John Brooklyn has had a very busy and productive year, and time has passed quickly and

with Christmas now upon us it's time for a bit of reflection and a thank you to those involved.

St John Brooklyn is like a family with the Leaders teaching our youth that they will be the Leaders of the future and putting them in good stead learning life skills and leadership.

To the Leaders a huge thank you for your tireless efforts arranging programmes, competitions, camps and volunteer work. Without the Leaders Brooklyn would not be the place it is.

There have been successful camps, national competitions and even Cadets from St John Brooklyn travelling to celebrations in Australia to celebrate 100 years of St John there. They not only did Brooklyn proud but New Zealand proud as well.

On the 9th of December there is the annual prizegiving for the cadets where family, friends and our distinguished guests present the trophies and certificates to our Penguins and Cadets for their efforts and to celebrate their achievements.

We have had new leaders joining and unfortunately one highly motivated Leader in the penguins leave us, thank you Amandine. The Penguin group will miss you.

#### Other achievements this year included:

- ANZAC day participation and raising the flag.
- Those in Brooklyn Division who have achieved their Grand Prior Award.
- Those promoted to Sergeant
- New Leaders and volunteers

- The growing Penguin group
- Those that participated in the District Competitions.
- The Penguins that attended the Totara Park competitions in Upper Hutt

**WITH SPECIAL NOTE** Thanks to the Brooklyn Community Centre. Without them, St John Youth would find it hard to function. We really appreciate all that you have done for us.

If you know of anyone who would like to be of St John Youth or Penguins, please pass this message on.

Contact:

Karen, Assistant Divisional Manager on 027 404 6343.

Ross Divisional Manager on 021 264 0440.

You are welcome to come along to a meeting night and see what we do.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A GREAT 2026 WHEN WE WILL  
SEE YOU ALL AGAIN

## Kōtare Gardening

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**0274172733** or email  
[michaelmckenzie1971@gmail.com](mailto:michaelmckenzie1971@gmail.com)

Brooklyn and surrounding suburbs



**Hato Hone  
St John**



**THE BRC  
CHARITABLE TRUST**  
*formerly The BRC Society Inc*

[brooklynresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynresourcecentre@gmail.com)

## CELEBRATING NEARLY \$175,000 DISTRIBUTED IN LOCAL GRANTS

Following the sale of the property in Jefferson Street proceeds were invested with Investment Advisors. This has enabled The BRC Charitable Trust, in the last five years, to distribute grants totaling nearly \$175,000 to organisations/groups within the wider Brooklyn community.

We invite eligible community groups & organisations in the greater Brooklyn area to apply for funding towards projects that will continue to support and grow our community. Grant rounds are held 6 monthly - in March and September - with no individual grant to exceed \$5,000.

Details of how to apply for funding is advertised in the March and September issues of the Brooklyn Tattler, or can be requested by email: [brooklynresourcecentre@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynresourcecentre@gmail.com)

To date the following local organisations/groups have benefited from receiving grants from The BRC Charitable Trust:

Brooklyn Community Centre, Brooklyn Food Group, Brooklyn Geckos Hockey Club, Brooklyn Junior Cricket Club, Brooklyn Northern United JFC, Brooklyn Playgroup, Brooklyn School, Brooklyn Scouts, Brooklyn Toy Library, Brooklyn Trail Builders, Capital Montessori School (Kingston), Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve, Greater Brooklyn Residents Association, Ridgway School, St Bernard's School, Two Todman, Upstream Friends of Central Park, Vogelmorn Community Group, Vogelmorn Tennis Club, Whānau Manaaki Brooklyn Kindergarten





*what's on at your*  
**BROOKLYN COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
*18 Harrison Street*

WEEKDAYS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

**BEFORE SCHOOL  
AFTER SCHOOL  
HOLIDAY**

**CHILDCARE  
PROGRAMMES**

Contact Adam Hendry, Childcare Programme Manager.  
Phone 385 0089 or email childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz.

**9 AM PILATES**

Contact Faye Tohbyn on 022 054 2369 or fayetohbyn@gmail.com

**10:30 - 11:30 AM FELDENKRAIS**

Improve your movement, posture & breathing. Contact Toni McWhinnie on 021 1782056 or email temcwhinnie@gmail.com

**6 - 7:30 PM BROWNIES**

Contact Margaret 389 3028 or email marrexj@gmail.com

**9 AM - 12 PM TABLE  
TENNIS**

Open to all ages and ability. Tables, bats and balls provided. Contact Philip on 021 230 4083 or email: codwgpdl@gmail.com

**9 - 10:30 AM EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
MUSIC**

For Tamariki aged 0 - 3 and their whanau. Contact Ahna Jensen on 027 775 8534 or email: ahnasmusicstudio@outlook.com

**6 - 8:30 PM ST JOHN  
YOUTH**

Penguins: 6 - 7pm. Cadets: 7 - 8:30pm. Contact Ross Young on 021 264 0440 or email ross.young@stjohn.org.nz

**10 - 11 AM FELDENKRAIS**

Contact Toni McWhinnie on 021 1782056 or email temcwhinnie@gmail.com

**4:30 - 6 PM KARATE**

Grasshopper Karate to Advanced Karate classes. Book your free trial class. Contact Sensei Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

**6:15 - 7:15 PM ZUMBA**

Zumba is a dance fitness class set to Latin and World rhythms - it's exercise in disguise! Contact Angelica on 027 267 0999 or email zumba@angelicawoolley.com

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

**8 PM TABLE  
TENNIS**

Inquiries Philip on 021 230 4083 or email: codwgpdl@gmail.com

**10 AM - 12 PM CRAFT  
CONNECTIONS**

Fortnightly crafters social group. Contact Louise email: louisebrockway.nz@gmail.com

**5 - 6:30 PM KARATE**

Beginners' to Advanced Karate classes. Contact Sensei Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

**6:30 - 7:30 PM TAI CHI**

Contact Ferne on 389 1433 or email: ferne.david@xtra.co.nz

**6:40 - 7:10 PM CARDIO &  
CORE**

A half hour strength workout for busy people like you! Contact Patricia on 027 297 6049.

**9 AM PILATES**

Contact Faye Tohbyn on 022 054 2369 or email: fayetohbyn@gmail.com

**11 AM - 2 PM FRIDAY  
CIRCLE**

Seniors Social Group, meets weekly for light lunch and activities. Contact Euan Harris, details at bottom of page

**10:30 - 11:45 AM YOGA**

Koha Yoga classes with Maria Bergvall. People of all ages and abilities welcome. BYO yoga mat. Contact Maria for more information on 020 477 5190.

**9:15 AM BROOKLYN  
ANGLICANS**

Our one hour service starts in the hall at 9:30am. Contact Rev. Scottie Reeve at scottie.reeve@gmail.com View online www.brooklynanglicans.nz

**10:30 AM EKKAALLAM  
CHURCH**

Tamil Christian worship and service. Contact Robert tec.wgtn@gmail.com or 027 858 9916

**3:45 - 6 PM KARATE**

Grasshopper Karate to Advanced Karate classes. Contact Sensei Patricia at www.familyfitkarate.co.nz/contact or 027 297 6049.

To book Brooklyn Community Centre for classes, groups or events contact Euan Harris on 384 6799 or coordinator@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz



## BROOKLYN WELLNESS HUB

### Peaceful Easy Christmas

Our 2024 Christmas article was a smorgasbord of ways to reduce seasonal stresses such as exhaustion, financial, dietary, emotional, grief. 2025 has a different feel, with more people struggling financially. Can we do Christmas a little differently this year?

**The reason for the season.** To create the Christmas we want, we need to know what that is. What does Christmas mean to you? What would you like your day, or season, to be like? Some examples: A celebration of faith / Time for family to come together / Time to rest, rejuvenate or hide from the world / Chances to be of service / Party month!

**Plan ahead.** Sit down in a quiet spot with a cuppa and write down everything you need to do before Christmas. Then get ruthless. Budget your time and energy as if it's money - you can't do it all. Remember your "reason for the season". What is vital for your family's Christmas needs? What can be changed, postponed, or not done at all? Planning meals and gifts early means more opportunities to get good prices. So, make a note now to do this even earlier next year.

**Festive food for all.** We have oodles of festive recipes on our website, including special diets, so everyone can be catered for. If your budget doesn't stretch to special foods right now, check out our pages about

good eating on a budget. Can you make those cheaper but nutritious foods turn into something festive? Check out my "Easy As and compatible with any special diet" Xmas Cake which is in this Tattler. Then head over to our blog.

**Gifting.** Put some creative thought into what would be most appreciated by those you love. Gift your time or talents. Give vouchers for babysitting, dog walking or other chores. Make some festive goodies. Create foods for friends with special dietary needs (ask what they can't eat first, then research on our blog). Share seeds or produce from your garden. Shop thrift stores or Christmas markets. Can you re-gift something? Arrange with friends in similar straits to not give, just to have a special dinner together.

**Holidays.** If going away isn't an option, think about a Wellington Staycation. Or maybe arrange a house swap with friends in a different part of Greater Wellington that you can explore.

There's a more detailed version of this article, with links to the other articles you might find useful at this time of the year, on our blog at <https://brooklynwellness.nz/2025/11/22/peaceful-easy-christmas/>

We are taking a bit of a sabbatical in 2026 and will only be writing occasionally. But our past articles are available online, and you can contact our practitioners through [www.brooklynwellness.nz](http://www.brooklynwellness.nz)

## EASY CHRISTMAS CAKE FOR ALL DIETS

This cake is very forgiving and can be made GF, DF, EF, starch free or refined sugar free. Because it's a boiled cake, you don't need to mature it for a month. It will improve with maturing, but can be eaten the same day, and still be delicious.

Take a large pan, and melt together:

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup brandy, rum or extra water
- Juice of one orange
- Rind of the orange, plus rind of a lemon, finely grated
- 170g butter or coconut oil
- Up to 1 cup sugar, preferably coconut or unrefined (You can replace with other natural sweeteners such as honey or stevia, but add those after boiling and cooling, just before the eggs. For a lower sugar/carb diet, you can leave out the sugar completely – I do!)
- 2 tsp mixed spice & 1 tsp ginger

Finely chop:

- 900gm dried fruit. Use a packeted mix, or choose your own favourites

Add to the pan & simmer for 5-10 mins, stirring often, till the fruit has soaked up all the liquid (though some of the oil may not soak up, especially if using coconut oil). Leave to stand for 30 mins, while you prep the tins & the rest of the ingredients.

Line a 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) square tin with a double layer of brown paper, which comes to about double the height of the tin. Then line with a double layer of baking paper.

Sift together in a large bowl, and mix well:

- 1 tsp baking soda



- 1 cup ground almonds
- 1 cup flour (For GF: use your own favourite mix)

Beat up:

- 3 large or 4 small eggs

When the fruit mix has cooled to lukewarm, stir through the beaten egg. Then stir through the dry ingredients. The mixture should be a thick batter and quite hard to stir. If it's too runny, add a little more flour. Spoon the mixture into the pan and bake at 150C for 1.75 - 2 hours. Use the usual skewer test, or listen - when it stops sizzling, it's ready. (Optional: Before cooling, pierce small holes in the top of the cake with a skewer, then carefully pour 2 Tbs brandy over the top).

Cool completely before removing from tin. Wrap in some baking or greaseproof paper, then in a tea towel and store in the bottom of the fridge.

Recipe by Deb of the Brooklyn Wellness Hub. For more info on different variations (e.g. egg or starch free) or how to make smaller sizes, see our blog at

<https://brooklynwellness.nz/2024/11/10/easy-versatile-xmas-cake/>





Seek, the plant detecting app, tells me this month's photo is Turkish Sage (*Phlomis russeliana*). The Turkish origin of this plant ties in with the birthplace of December's favourite saint, Saint Nic, or Santa Claus. The original Santa Claus was likely a fourth century bishop, tortured by the Romans, and later known for deeds of generosity. Our plant is known for its plethora of petals, stacked at intervals along its hairy stem, and its ability to thrive in Wellington's clay. Turkish sage is abundant right now at the entrance to Central Park.

Abundance probably won't be a theme for 2025 except in the plant world. Right now, renga renga lilies are exuberant beneath the trees in Central Park. If their flowers had voices, they'd be louder than the guy playing scales on his trombone by the playground. Or perhaps louder than the musician giving bagpipe recitals around home time.

Abundance might also be a theme for the generosity of people who volunteer in the park. So, thanks to the gardeners, trappers, bakers, fund-raisers, organisers, rubbish removalists, builders and locals

who support the conservation effort. A big shout out to the BRC Charitable Trust for funding, the Renouf Centre for stashing our tools, Supreme Coffee for supporting our caffeine addiction and Wellington City Council for plant support and advice. We appreciate you.

And if you're looking for a New Year's resolution, you're welcome to come and lend a hand at our working bees. Coffee, baking, weeds and dirt. It doesn't get much better than that.

Meri Kirihimete! Merry Christmas. Come back safe in the New Year.

Next working bee:  
Please check the link below.

Check <https://www.meetup.com/upstream/> for confirmation.

Contact Lynne at [all.whites@extra.co.nz](mailto:all.whites@extra.co.nz)

## Katie Underwood

THE QUIET ACHIEVER



“Would you like to know how much your house is worth? It would be my pleasure to offer you a free appraisal.”

Contact me on:

m: 027 248 2061

t: 04 894 3717

e: [katie.underwood@raywhite.com](mailto:katie.underwood@raywhite.com)

## WHAT OUR MOTHERS AND GRANDMAS PUT UP WITH

How women ever managed to dress for the day in the 20's and 30's is something of a mystery. Older women wore an astounding under-garment known as a “combination”. Made of cotton interlock, it had an elastic half waist and, at the back was a little flap that unbuttoned like a trapdoor. No well-dressed woman would have dreamed of going out without wearing gloves and a hat, the latter bedecked with flowers and fruit, or for a very social event, a hat with ostrich plumes. For simple visits to town, a fox fur was always a must. Women bobbed their hair and curled it with tongs heated over a gas flame accompanied by a faint smell of singeing.

‘Flappers’ danced the Charleston and behaved outrageously, smoking cigarettes in massively long holders, and, for swimming in the sea in summer, wearing daring neck to knee bathing suits made of wool as heavy as a man's shearing jersey. Whenever they had a tummy upset, they had to swallow doses of syrup of figs. A cold was treated by plastering the chest with a scratchy red flannel to keep it warm, and swallowing balls of butter coated with sugar.

In the 20's, the milkman, butcher, baker and fishmonger all sold their wares from carts drawn by horses. Once a week the butcher's cart would pass by and mother and her neighbours would go out on the road with a huge meat dish. The door at the back of the cart was hinged down and the butcher would chop off whatever cut was requested. Knives, steel, chopper, saw and scales were all carried on the cart, along with a hook to reach and bring out the carcass. On the seat beside the driver always stood a huge basket of delicious sausages. Customers often included young mothers who would bring their babies to be weighed on the scales.

The effort expended by housewifery chores took care of any frustrations. Women had weekly washdays. The wash house, usually attached to a house, was separate, to prevent steam escaping into other areas. Laundry equipment didn't cost much, except in time and energy. Soap was home-made from surplus fat, and clothes rubbed on a ribbed glass washing board. They were then boiled in a large copper urn set in concrete and heated by a fire below. It was filled by a bucket and emptied by bailing. The ‘copper’ as it was widely known, doubled as a boiler for the Christmas ham. A wooden rod was used to ladle clothes out. Dripping towels and sheets were then thrust through the two rubber rollers of a wringer to extract the water, then hung out on the clothesline.

Chris Rabey







## DIRT

DIRT (Disaster Innovation Research and Teaching) is your community resilience initiative, based at the Vogelmorn Precinct (93 Mornington Road). We meet monthly to get our neighbourhood better prepared for a significant earthquake, extreme weather, or other disaster scenario.

We have a great group regularly getting together to build skills, knowledge and connections and now a container that is being stocked with resources to deploy when needed. Huge thanks go out to everyone who's supporting this work.

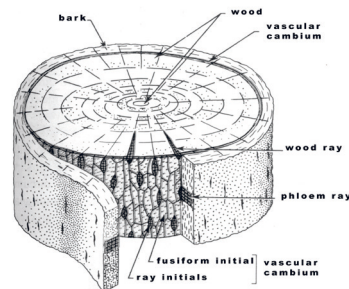
Our November event wrapped up a year of fun, learning and big steps forwards for our community preparedness and resilience. We focused on communication - not just technical stuff but also the people side of it and why that can make such a difference in an emergency situation.

At VBC there are now solar panels with storage battery, resilient server and network projects progressing, letting us communicate and co-ordinate when power, phone and internet services are out, hugely valuable capabilities in a disaster.

It can be difficult to think about disasters and how they can affect us - but the evidence overwhelmingly says that getting together to talk, learn, share and take action is a great thing to do. We'd love to see you at a future DIRT event.

Dirt #16 is Sunday 22nd February, 4:00–6:00pm at VBC, 93 Mornington Road.

## TREE DOCTORS



## LIVING PLANET

021 064 2306 04 971 8583

Hugh Underhill

[livingplanet.co.nz](http://livingplanet.co.nz)



*The top photo was taken of the Brooklyn Post Office 36 years ago in 1989, the same year it closed. Look closely and you can see a person in the red telephone box on the corner of Cleveland and Jefferson Streets. After closing the former P.O. was at one time a restaurant before being transformed into a private residence as seen in the recent bottom photo.*







## HOW TO PREPARE YOUR FOOD & BEVERAGE CARTONS FOR RECYCLING!

OPENED OUT FLAT | CLEAN

- 1 cut along the top and sides of the carton  
CAPS ON
- 2 completely open out flat
- 3 rinse out clean - job done!

for more info, visit  
[fbcarton.recycling.kiwi.nz](https://fbcarton.recycling.kiwi.nz)

## THE VOGELMORN FOUNDATION

Visit us at  
[www.tvf.org.nz](http://www.tvf.org.nz)

The Vogelhorn Foundation has commenced distributing funds to local organisations and individuals.



For more information or to apply for funding please visit our website. Applications MUST be made online.

PO Box 14-330, Kilbirnie  
Wellington, 6022  
[admin@tvf.org.nz](mailto:admin@tvf.org.nz)

# STEP INSIDE INVERLOCHY: WELLINGTON'S HISTORIC ART SCHOOL HOSTS ITS ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

In a celebration of community, creativity, and place, artists from Wellington's infamous Inverlochy Art School have come together for a whole-school exhibition, open to the public until Friday, 12 December.

Held within the fascinating setting of historic Inverlochy House, this exhibition showcases the work of the school's vibrant community of students, tutors, and studio artists. Visitors are invited to explore the house's intimate rooms, discovering both its layered history and the diverse range of artistic practices nurtured at the school.

Most artworks on display are available for purchase, with the majority of profits going directly to the artists. Remaining proceeds support the upkeep of the heritage building and fund community art programmes such as The Inverlochy Connection—a series of free art workshops for seniors.

A highlight of the show is the Gordon Harris People's Choice Award, voted for by exhibition visitors. The winner receives a generous voucher from Gordon Harris Art Supplies and the opportunity to present a solo exhibition in the IAS Community Gallery in 2026. This year's winner will be announced at a special closing celebration and concert with folk group The Wooden Box Band on Friday, 12 December.

Last year's People's Choice winner, Rose Dryland, held her solo exhibition *Echoes of the Wild* at Inverlochy earlier this year. Her detailed and evocative depictions of nature nearly sold out

on opening night. "It felt like a real honour to know that people connected with my work," she says. "Winning the People's Choice Award and exhibiting at Inverlochy has been a real boost to my development as an emerging artist."

Founded in 1987, Inverlochy Art School is a not-for-profit organisation guided by the kaupapa of "art for art's sake." Despite the ongoing challenges of maintaining its historic home, the school continues to thrive. "We welcome new students all the time and our syllabus keeps growing," shares an Inverlochy Director. "Our tutors and facilities are an absolute treasure, and we want to ensure Wellingtonians have access to what we offer."

New initiatives—including studio rentals, public exhibitions, concerts, subsidised courses, and team-building workshops—reflect the school's mission to share the joy of creativity with the wider Pōneke community.

The Inverlochy Art School Annual Exhibition is at 3 Inverlochy Place, Te Aro. Open daily, 10 - 2 pm, until Friday 12 December. Closing celebration and concert, Friday 12 December from 5:30 pm.

Connah Podmore



Need before school care for your child/ren?  
Come join us at our OSCAR accredited  
Before School Care programme at  
Brooklyn Community Centre

Mondays - Fridays from 7.30am.  
Daily/weekly/casual rates available

Drop off to Brooklyn School  
To find out more contact Adam at:  
[Childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz](mailto:Childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz)

  
Brooklyn  
Community  
Centre

A. 18 Harrison Street, Brooklyn, Wellington 6021, New Zealand  
P. 04 384 6799  
E. [childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz](mailto:childcare@brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz)  
W. [brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz](http://brooklyncommunitycentre.org.nz)





### BROOKLYN BROWNIES, GUIDES AND PIPPINS

Pippins (5-7 years)  
brooklynpipppins@outlook.com  
Brownies (7-9.5 years) brooklyn.brownies@gmail.com  
Guides (9-12.5 years) brooklynguides@gmail.com or visit  
<https://girlguidingnz.org.nz/>

### BROOKLYN FOOD GROUP

Local food and community. Working bees held weekly on Monday evenings from 5:30pm to sunset at the Brooklyn Orchard on Harrison Street. [thebrooklynfoodgroup@gmail.com](mailto:thebrooklynfoodgroup@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/BrooklynFoodGroupNZ](http://www.facebook.com/BrooklynFoodGroupNZ)

### BROOKLYN GARDEN CLUB

Meets 1st Wednesday 7:30pm from March to October. New members and visitors welcome. Contact Kathleen Skudder on 027 650 9108 or email: [kathleen.skudder@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.skudder@gmail.com)

### GECKOS HOCKEY CLUB

Come and play hockey with us. Years 1-8 during winter terms Wednesdays from 4:15-5:30pm indoor at the Chinese Cultural and Sports Centre near the National Hockey Stadium. Just turn up on practice day. <http://brooklyngeckoshockey.weebly.com> or [facebook.com/geckoshockeyclub/](https://facebook.com/geckoshockeyclub/)

### LIGHTHOUSE CHURCH

Sundays 11am-12:30pm Ridgway School Hall, 120 Mornington Road. Contact Avia 021 1096457. Email: [aavia123@gmail.com](mailto:aavia123@gmail.com) Find us on Facebook.

### BROOKLYN LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Next meeting on Saturday 31 January from 2 - 4pm at Brooklyn Library. We'd love your input or queries. Please contact the convenor in case our advertised date or venue changes. Sharon Macintyre 0276344455 [sharonmacintyre42@gmail.com](mailto:sharonmacintyre42@gmail.com)

### BROOKLYN MAINLY MUSIC

Fun affordable 30 minutes, for parents or care givers to enjoy with their pre-schooler(s). Morning Tea provided. We meet Wednesdays at 10am during school terms.

**Wellington Reformed Church** 34 Harrison St. Maria 022 187 9030

### BROOKLYN NORTHERN UNITED JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

First Kicks enrolments for girls and boys aged 5 and 6 open throughout the season. Email enquiries to [info@bnufjc.co.nz](mailto:info@bnufjc.co.nz) or register online at [www.bnufjc.co.nz/registration](http://www.bnufjc.co.nz/registration)

### BROOKLYN PLAYGROUP

Fun group for parents & caregivers with preschool children. Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11:30am during the school term at the Korean Church - 184 Ohio Road. Turn up on the day.

### BROOKLYN SCOUTS

Scout Hall, Harrison St. Scouting is for boys and girls who love adventure.

Keas 5-7 yrs, Cubs 7-11yrs, Scouts 11-14yrs, Venturers 14-18yrs. Financial Support available. Find out more at [www.brooklynscouts.org.nz](http://www.brooklynscouts.org.nz) or contact John Morrison on [membership@brooklynscouts.org.nz](mailto:membership@brooklynscouts.org.nz)

### BROOKLYN SMALLBORE RIFLE CLUB

Ages 14+ Sundays 6pm-8pm mid-March to early October at the Royal Tiger Range, 131 Russell Terrace, Newtown. All equipment provided. To join email: [bsrc.club.captain@gmail.com](mailto:bsrc.club.captain@gmail.com) [www.bsrc.org.nz](http://www.bsrc.org.nz)

### BROOKLYN TABLE TENNIS

9am-12pm Tuesdays and 8pm Wednesdays at Brooklyn Community Centre. We welcome new members of all ages and ability. Tables, bats and balls provided. Phone Philip on 021 230 4083.

### BROOKLYN TOY LIBRARY

The Toy Library is based in the Vogelmorn Precinct at 93 Mornington Road. We have a fantastic range of toys for children aged 0-7 years available to hire. Find us on Facebook or visit our website: [brooklyntoylibrary.org.nz](http://brooklyntoylibrary.org.nz)

### BROOKLYN WALKERS

Meet Monday mornings (except public holidays) outside Brooklyn Library. Phone Deborah 934 2238 or Lindy 027 356 5037.

15 December – Around the

Bays. Start from the Kilbirnie Bus Hub at 10am.

22 December – Johnsonville to Ngauranga. Catch 10:02am train to Johnsonville.

29 December – Petone Esplanade to Lower Hutt. Catch 9:33am bus to Cuba Street, Petone.

5 January – Brooklyn to Island Bay. Start walking from Brooklyn Library at 9:30am.

12 January – Box Hill, Bridle Path to City. Catch 10:02am Johnsonville train to Box Hill.

### BROOKLYN CRICKET CLUBS

Tanera Park off Tanera Cres. Junior Age 4 + [www.bjcc.co.nz](http://www.bjcc.co.nz) Senior 1 Day, T20, Vintage [www.brooklyncricketclub.com](http://www.brooklyncricketclub.com)

### FRIENDS OF OWHIRO

STREAM Working bees on the second Saturday of the month 10am-12:30pm. Contact Martin on 389 8995 or email: [owhirostream@gmail.com](mailto:owhirostream@gmail.com)

### PREDATOR FREE BROOKLYN

Hello Kaka, goodbye rats! We're looking for volunteers to host traps on their properties. If you'd like to help email [predatorfreebrooklyn@gmail.com](mailto:predatorfreebrooklyn@gmail.com)

### RATA PLAYGROUP

Calm and nurturing place for babies and toddlers 0-3 years to explore, learn and socialise with a parent or

family member. Morning sessions available at Capital Montessori, Camrose Grove, Kingston. [montessori.school.nz/playgroup](http://montessori.school.nz/playgroup) or email [rata@montessori.school.nz](mailto:rata@montessori.school.nz)

### THE KUNG FU SCHOOL

Learn Shaolin Kung Fu for self defense and functional fitness. Wellington Swords Club Building, 2 Tanera Crescent, Brooklyn. Contact Rob Young on 021 408 521 or [wellington@shaolinkungfu.co.nz](mailto:wellington@shaolinkungfu.co.nz) [www.shaolinkungfu.co.nz](http://www.shaolinkungfu.co.nz)

### ST JOHN PENGUIN AND YOUTH DIVISION

Penguin Program 6-8 yrs. Karen Don 027 404 6343 Youth Division 8-18 yrs. Ross Young 021 264 0440 [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz)

### TURBINE TALKERS

TOASTMASTERS CLUB Your local chapter of Toastmasters International. Tuesdays 7:15pm-9:15pm fortnightly at the Reformed Church on Harrison St. Bridget 0211 379 656, Sylvie 022 197 3610 [turbine@toastmasters.org.nz](mailto:turbine@toastmasters.org.nz) <http://6879.toastmastersclubs.org>

### UPSTREAM – FRIENDS OF CENTRAL PARK

Working Bees from 10am-12:30pm on the last Sunday of the month. Contact Lynne White at [all.whites@](mailto:all.whites@)

[xtra.co.nz](http://xtra.co.nz) Come along for great conversations, meet new people, delicious morning tea and contribute to the care of Central Park.

### VOGELMORN TENNIS CLUB

[Vogelmorntennisclub.com](http://Vogelmorntennisclub.com) Fun exercise for all abilities. Give tennis a go at the best little tennis club in NZ. Club days, competition and coaching available. Call in or email [secretary1vtc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary1vtc@gmail.com)

### WELLINGTON SWORDS CLUB

By the Tanera Park bowling greens off Tanera Crescent. Contact Vicci Lamb - Head Coach. Phone 970 7496 or email: [bishop.lamb@pistingaround.com](mailto:bishop.lamb@pistingaround.com)

### BROOKLYN PLAYCENTRE

22 Harrison Street Ages 0 - 6 years Mon to Thurs 9am - 12:30pm. Contact [brooklynplaycentrenz@gmail.com](mailto:brooklynplaycentrenz@gmail.com) or call 027 700 1363.

### CRAFTING THREADS OF AROHA

Community knitting group meets in the Penthouse Cafe at 11am on the last Saturday of the month. Contact Katherine on 021 203 0022 or [ka.harris25@gmail.com](mailto:ka.harris25@gmail.com).





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